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From: gary s
Sent: Mon 12/23/2013 4:08:16 AM
Subject: RE: Soil Testing on Passaic Riverbank in Kearny NJ.

Hi!

I'll call each of you tomorrow and I'm sorry for not following up sooner but can you bubble this up to the top of your action pile? At least to talk about it?

thanks in advance.
gary schetlick
(201) 207-9987

From: garys-nj@hotmail.com
To: yeh.alice@epa.gov; lisa.a.baron@usace.army.mil; reyhan.mehran@noaa.gov;
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Subject: Soil Testing on Passaic Riverbank in Kearny NJ.
Date: Fri, 6 Dec 2013 11:15:12 -0500

TO:

**United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 2**

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**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Programs & Project Management Division**

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**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Ocean Service-Office of Response and Restoration**

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**New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Site Remediation Program**

401 E. State Street
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**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
New Jersey Field Office-Ecological Services**

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reference: <http://www.ourpassaic.org/ContactUs.aspx>

hello -

I'm involved with a community garden in Kearny nj on the banks of the Passaic river. I know that this area of the Passaic River is heavily contaminated with a variety of hazardous substances, including dioxin, PCBs, mercury, DDT, pesticides and heavy metals and our Kearny Community Garden falls within the Lower Passaic River Restoration Project Study Area. I found below report which indicates that areas that have flooded around the polluted sections of river are not dangerous for people to use. But the report doesn't address growing edible vegetables in the soil...

Can you comment or advise? I believe that the river has flooded this area on some rare occasions (hurricane sandy) but definitely not often.

http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/npl/diamondalkali/pdf/soilsamp_report.pdf

I also understand it is possible the soil might not be safe for planting because of contamination from businesses that no longer exist on the property (I don't know that there was ever any businesses there but I guess it's possible). So in this light, we should have the soil tested.

Seeing as our Kearny Community Garden is located within the Lower Passaic River Restoration Project Study Area and the Lower Passaic River Restoration Project is a partnership designed to restore degraded shorelines, restore and create new habitats and **enhance human use** along this 17-mile stretch of the lower Passaic, can you advise on planting there and are there any free

soil testing options??? The Kearny Community Garden is already a successful beautification project and so joining forces only makes sense as the Kearny Community Garden is exactly that which the Lower Passaic River Restoration Project was designed to create. We are your success story.

Thanks in advance for your timely response. Please note that we are already planning and raising funds for Spring Planting and so the completion of this soil testing milestone is becoming urgent. In this light, we may be pursuing other testing options but feel working within the Lower Passaic River Restoration Project is the best solution.

best regards,
gary schetlick
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